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I Claim:

1. A method for providing bed availability information on a computer network, the method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a database;
  - inputting bed availability information for a plurality of healthcare facilities having beds; and
  - providing a first access to the database for finding the bed availability information by a user of the database.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - providing the database on the network wherein access to the database is via the network.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the network is the internet.
4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - contacting one of the healthcare facilities after retrieving information about the healthcare facility.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - providing a remote server; and
  - storing the database on the remote server.
6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - providing a second access to the database wherein an extended care or a healthcare facility having beds enters the bed availability information into the database via the second access.
7. The method of Claim 1 wherein an individual healthcare facility accesses the database to input the bed availability information for the individual

healthcare facility.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of empty beds available.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes types of empty beds available.

10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing an internet-enabled form on a website for accessing the remote database and inputting information into the database.

11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

searching the database for the bed availability information; and

matching healthcare facility criteria with patient needs.

12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

entering individual information related to a medical condition of a patient; and

searching the database based on the individual information for the bed availability information.

13. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a search engine for searching the database.

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~~14. A system for storing and accessing bed availability information for a plurality of healthcare facilities, the system comprising:~~

~~a computer network;~~

~~a database associated with the network;~~

~~means for inputting bed availability information of a plurality of healthcare facilities into the database;~~

~~and~~

~~means for accessing the bed availability information and retrieving the bed availability information from the database.~~

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of beds available.

16. The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes types of beds available.

17. The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes a projection of expected availability of beds at a facility in a specified time frame.

18. The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a remote server wherein the database is contained on the remote server; and

a website providing access to the database.

19. The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

means for accessing the database wherein an individual healthcare facility enters the bed availability into the database.

20. The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

means for searching the database for the bed availability information of healthcare facilities.

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